



Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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June 6, 2019

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center, 23rd Floor
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Re: Resolution in Support of the WH CORNER Project's Possible Move to the GWB Bus Station

Dear Mr. Cotton:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, with a vote of 28 in favor, 10 opposed, 0 abstentions, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution supporting the possible relocation of the Washington Heights CORNER Project to the George Washington Bridge Bus Station, and urging the CORNER Project to reach a mutually acceptable understanding with the Dominican Women's Development Center program and the Fine Fare supermarket.

Whereas: The Washington Heights CORNER (Community OutReach Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction) Project has been searching for a new location since it lost its space on West 181st Street and St. Nicholas Avenue last September and has been operating out of a van at that intersection as well as two other nearby locations since that time; and

Whereas: The CORNER Project's mission is to improve the health and quality of life of people who use drugs by providing access to clean syringes and offering resources, advocacy and a broad range of educational, health and referral services to reduce risks associated with drug use, including HIV, hepatitis and overdoses while helping to overcome stigma and systemic barriers to care, and is the only community-based organization that provides all these services to this population; and

Whereas: The CORNER Project reports that it has saved 362 lives by reversing intravenous drug overdoses, exchanged tens of thousands of needles, provided naloxone intervention trainings to thousands of people, and has recovered and safely disposed of hundreds of thousands of sharps (syringes and needles) from various public places; and

Whereas: The CORNER Project reports that problems in the community, including overdoses and fatalities, have increased dramatically since it lost its office and its services had to be reduced; and

Whereas: The CORNER Project has found a possible new location in the George Washington Bridge Bus Station on West 179th Street that suits its needs and where it can provide a drop-in center with bathrooms so that its clients can come in off the street; and

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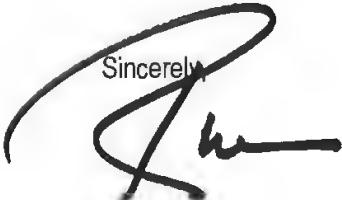
Whereas: The CORNER Project has promised to provide a special phone number to businesses in the bus station as well as to businesses and residents along W. 178th & W. 179th Streets to report any problems with its clients and other individuals. It promises to dispatch a trained worker to deal with these situations and to hire a liaison to work with businesses and tenants. In addition, it has said it will install an all-weather booth with a security person to prevent loitering outside the office next to the Fine Fare supermarket; and

Whereas: Borough President Gale Brewer, State Senator Robert Jackson, Assembly Member Al Taylor and Council Member Mark Levine have signed a letter supporting this move; and

Whereas: Community Board 12-Manhattan passed a resolution on January 22, 2019 by a vote of 37-0-2 reiterating its support of the CORNER Project and calling upon our elected officials "to work with the community and local commercial landlords to find another suitable brick-and-mortar site for the CORNER Project within CB12's district;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the possible relocation of the Washington Heights CORNER Project to the George Washington Bridge Bus Station while urging the CORNER Project to reach a mutually acceptable understanding with the Dominican Women's Development Center program across the street and the Fine Fare supermarket next door to the proposed site and also to explore the feasibility of using space that fronts on West 178th Street instead of West 179th Street.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Liz Evans, WH CORNER Project
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member